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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

October 24, 2008

Probation and Parole Implements New Requirements of Supervised, Registered Sex Offenders for Halloween

Jefferson City - SB 714 went into effect August 28, 2008. One provision of the bill mandates that any person that is required to register as a sex offender is required on October 31 of each year to avoid specific activities in order to protect children who are engaged in Halloween activities. The Missouri Board of Probation and Parole (P&P) has enhanced its requirements for supervised, registered sex offenders on Halloween.

"Public safety is our number one priority," Probation and Parole Board Chairman Steve Long said. "Last year Missouri took the lead and implemented a statewide ban on Halloween activities at home, and under the Board's direction, some P & P districts enacted even tougher restrictions."

All 65 District and Satellite Offices of the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole will be giving each supervised, registered sex offender very specific guidelines to abide by on Halloween. One of the most significant changes for the holiday outlined by the new law requires registered sex offenders to post a sign indicating no candy will be provided. Offenders will be provided an 8 1/2"x11" sign to post.

In addition, prior to Halloween, each supervised, registered sex offender will be required to sign a standardized directive that includes the following:

- During the Halloween season, I will make NO attempt to engage in any type of contact with children or go to any location where children are known to frequent in order to celebrate any type of Halloween festivities.
- I will remain inside my residence between 5:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. unless there is just cause to leave.
- I will post the sign "NO CANDY OR TREATS AT THIS RESIDENCE" provided by my Parole Officer on my front door.
- I will leave all outside residential lighting off during the evening hours after 5:00 p.m.

Failure by the supervised, registered sex offender to comply with these directives will result in a violation of their probation or parole and may result in revocation. Violation of these provisions of the law can also constitute a class A misdemeanor which may be enforced by local law enforcement for any registered sex offender.

Missouri Department of Corrections

Matt Blunt • Governor
Larry Crawford • Director

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The Missouri Board of Probation & Parole reminds parents the new law and related changes are not meant to replace parental vigilance on Halloween. Parents should also consider the following safety tips to help keep their children safe:

- Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
- You should know where your children are going.
- Tell your children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only houses that are lit.

"Probation and Parole is committed to public safety 365 days a year but especially on Halloween when children are going trick-or-treating," said Chairman Long.

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